

### **REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art of record fails to teach and/or suggest a semi-permanent reference electrode having a fill solution of a saturated salt that is hygroscopic, hydrolyzable and having a low deliquescence point, wherein the electrode further has a removable cap with an opening in the cap for moisture to pass there through and a removable porous plug situated within the electrode inner chamber. Typical reference electrodes are completely sealed and do not allow moisture to enter the sealed vessel.

### **EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Ted Lee on September 25, 2008.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 14, line 1; Change "13" to "12".

Claim 17, line 1; Change "16" to "15".

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Bruce F. Bell whose telephone number is 571-272-1296. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 6:30 AM - 3:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Patrick Ryan can be reached on 571 272-1292. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

BFB  
September 25, 2008

/Bruce F. Bell/  
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1795